

The relationship between funding in education and quality education

by

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Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree

Philosophiae Doctor

in the

Department of Education Management and Policy Studies
Faculty of Education
University of Pretoria

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October 2011

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DECLARATION OF ORIGINALITY

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Declaration

1. I understand what plagiarism is and am aware of the university’s policy in this regard.
2. I declare that the thesis, “*The relationship between funding in education and quality education*” is my own original work. Where other people’s work has been used, this has been acknowledged and referenced in accordance with Departmental requirements.
3. I have not used work previously produced by another student or any other person to hand in as my own.
4. I have not allowed, and will not allow, anyone to copy my work with the intention of passing it off as his or her own work.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is with deep gratitude that I express my sincere appreciation to the following:

- Professor JL Beckmann, as supervisor, colleague and critical friend, for his sustained support and guidance during my studies. I also wish to thank him sincerely for editing the language.
- My wife Rika, our children, family and friends for their support and encouragement.
- My colleagues that, through their critical engagement, shaped my thinking over the years.
- All the respondents that participated in the study.
- My Creator and Saviour for every blessing in my life.

ABSTRACT

My entire career in lecturing and research in the field of financial management in education, have led to me becoming more and more intrigued by questions related to the amounts of money being spent on education and the performance of learners in the Senior Certificate Examination in public secondary schools in South Africa. The South African education system has changed dramatically since 1994 and is aimed at restoring the injustices of the past by providing equitable quality education. Despite many reforms our system is not rendering acceptable results as is evident from our participation in international and national tests (TIMSS, PIRLS, SACMEQ and ANA)². Internationally UNESCO is driving the *Educational for All* campaign in an attempt to address issues related to quality education.

The purpose of this research was to investigate the relationship between the funding of education and the quality of education in selected diverse top performing secondary schools in the Gauteng province of South Africa. The results of the sample schools in the National Senior Certificate examination was used as indicator of the quality of education provided. Towards this end, I have done multiple case study research in six schools selected using purposive and convenience sampling techniques. Semi-structured interviews and document analysis were used to collect data.

I found that there is a definite link between funding and the quality of education provided. This manifests itself in allowing schools to reduce class size by appointing additional teaching staff, access to technology and staff development. However, all the schools in the sample indicated that the crucial factor determining their success was their teachers! In addition to the role of the teachers, I found that structures created for and the manner in which academic performance was managed and parental involvement also played determining roles. Contrary to what was expected, the use of technology as teaching aid, although convenient, was not playing a decisive role.

The research led to a much better and deeper understanding of the intricate relationship between funding and the quality of education, but additional investigation is required in order to highlight this matter even further to allow for the informed improvement of efforts to raise the quality of education in South Africa and the world.

² See paragraphs 2.3.1 to 2.3.5 in Chapter two

KEY CONCEPTS

- Accountability
- Democratisation
- Financial management in education
- Funding of education
- Indicators of quality education
- National Senior Certificate Examination
- Private funds
- Public Funds
- Quality education
- School fund

ACRONYMS

ANA	Annual National Assessment
CCEM	Commonwealth Council of Education Ministers
DoE	Department of Education
DoBE	Department of Basic Education
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
NSCE	National Senior Certificate Examination
NSSF	National Norms and Standards for School Funding
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act
PIRLS	Progress in International Reading Literacy Study
SACMEQ	Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality
SASA	South African Schools Act
SGB	School Governing Body
SMT	School Management Team
TIMSS	Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation